

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 NSF-02 EB-07 COME-00

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DRAFTED BY OES/APT/SA:RGMORRIS:JAC

APPROVED BY OES/APT/SA:RGMORRIS

NSF: PWILKNISS

EUR/WE: JSMITH

IO/SCT: JTREVITHICK (INFO)

EB/TT/OA: JKGORDON (INFO)

----- 092990

R 122100Z SEP 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

INFO AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

UNCLAS STATE 217730

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: TPHY, FR

SUBJECT: BALLOON LAUNCHES FROM KOUROU

PARIS FOR SCICOUNS, GENEVA FOR WMO, MONTREAL FOR ICAO

REFS: A. STATE A-8426 (OCT. 5, 1973; B. STATE A-6602
(AUG. 20, 1974) (NOTAL); C. STATE 276278 (DEC. 17, 1974)
(NOTAL)

1. THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH (NCAR),
A GRANTEE OF THE US NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION, WILL
LAUNCH ABOUT FIFTEEN SCIENTIFIC BALLOONS FROM KOUROU,
FRENCH GUIANA (CENTRE SPATIAL GUYANAIS), DURING A TWO-
MONTH PERIOD BEGINNING SEPT. 12 OR 13. THESE FOLLOW TWO
LAUNCHES IN 1974.

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2. THE SCIENTIFIC BALLOONS DESCRIBED IN REF A GATHER METEOROLOGICAL DATA FOR MODELING OF THE ATMOSPHERE AND ARE USED IN EXPERIMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE WMO-SPONSORED GLOBAL ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH PROJECT (GARP).

3. THE SYSTEM EMPLOYS A SUPERPRESSURE BALLOON 20 METERS IN DIAMETER FLOATING AT AN ALTITUDE OF 80,000 FEET AND

CARRYING AN ELECTRONICS PACKAGE AND 81 DROPSONDES WEIGHING 100 KILOGRAMS ALTOGETHER. THE DROPSONDES, OR SMALL BALLOONS, ARE RELEASED ON COMMAND FROM A SATELLITE; THEY MEASURE TEMPERATURE, HUMIDITY AND POSITION, AND TRANSMIT THE DATA BACK TO THE SATELLITE FOR RELAY TO THE GROUND.

4. THE BALLOONS CAN BE DESTROYED BY A SIGNAL FROM THE SATELLITE OR FROM A GROUND STATION; NONE WILL BE ALLOWED TO STAY ALOFT LONGER THAN 90 DAYS. THE BALLOONS ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE A FLIGHT HAZARD. NCAR CARRIES \$10 MILLION LIABILITY INSURANCE.

5. GOF NOTE 528 (DEC. 3, 1973) TO EMBASSY AUTHORIZED FLIGHTS. DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING(MOU) (REF B) WAS TRANSMITTED TO GOF BY EMBASSY WITH NOTE 146 ON SEPT. 3, 1974. SUBSEQUENT CHANGES (REF C) EXTENDING LAUNCH PERIOD TO CALENDAR YEAR 1975 AND DURATION OF MOU TO JUNE 1976 WERE FORWARDED BY EMBASSY TO GOF ON 20 DEC. 1974 (NOTE 193). COMPLETE DETAILS CONTAINED IN NOTES AND REFS. KISSINGER

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